

Sac 8 +
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 OLC #78-1687

CIA VS. WORLD FOOD ESTIMATES

Question: USDA and CIA, as well, have often been wrong on their estimates of crop productions, etc. Provide for the record an analysis showing the CIA estimates and projections that correspond to projections made by either the World Food Board or its USDA predecessors during the past three years. Highlight the differences in the estimates, and show what the actuals were so that the Committee can determine who has made the best estimates during this time period.
 [The information follows:]

Agency Soviet Grain Crop Estimates

Months	1974	1975	1976	1977
	USDA	CIA	USDA	CIA
	USDA	CIA	USDA	CIA
----- Million Metric Tons -----				
April				
May				
June	205	200	190	215
July	205	195	195	225
August	210	180	195	220
September ..	205	175	205	220
October	200	160	215	215
Official Soviet Crop Figure	195.7	140.1	223.8	195.5

In assessing the above estimates, it should be noted that--through the USDA Task Force on the USSR that has now been in existence about five years, there is a much improved interchange of information and cooperation regarding the Soviet crop.

Due to the classified nature of the information, the CIA estimates should be obtained directly from the CIA.

Ed:

*Pls. provide figures requested.
 Why would they be classified? Can an
 unclassified version be obtained?*

Jaf